

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to add an element of security to the network. Support for these amendments is found on page 29, paragraph 0086, at least.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Aboulhosn et al.* US Patent 6,938,042 (“Aboulhosn”).

Claim 1 has been amended to call for the first user to have permission to execute the operation on the object and for the metadata to be transmitted to only those other users that have permission to receive such updates. These elements are not found in Aboulhosn. Aboulhosn propagates to the entire network and does not have the additional step of determining whether a user on a network has permission to make a change or to receive metadata about a change.

These added elements are significant. An extra layer of permission is now part of the network which allows additional flexibility. Now, only certain members of the network (as opposed to all members in Aboulhosn) can perform functions on objects. In addition, now only some members are alerted to changes through the communication of metadata. As a result, members that are part of a network may be limited in their ability to see changes to a file. As an example, a member of a network from X corporation that paid a fee may be notified of operations to the object but members of the network from corporation Y that did not pay a fee may not be notified of operations to the object.

As elements in claim 1 are missing from Aboulhosn, claim 1 is allowable over Aboulhosn. As claim 3 is dependent on claim 1 and elements are missing from claim 1, elements are missing from claim 3, meaning claim 3 also is allowable.

Claim 5 has been amended to call for a decision to be made whether a rule has been met before allowing a file system operation by a user. In addition, claim 5 calls for propagating only to a second computer device that has permission the metadata related to the change. Similar to claim 1, these elements are not in the prior art and these elements are significant. The additional elements add an additional dimension that is absent from the prior art. As elements in the pending claim 5 are missing from Aboulhosn, the pending claim 5 is allowable over Aboulhosn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Aboulhosn* as applied to claim 5, and further in view of *Taylor et al.* US Patent 5,754,306 (“Taylor”).

As claims 6-8 depend on claim 5 and the added permission elements of claim 5 are missing from both Aboulhosn and Taylor, claims 6-8 are allowable over the combination of Aboulhosn in view of Taylor.

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Balfanz et al.* US Publication 2004/0103280 (“Balfanz”).

Claim 9 has been amended to call for only allowing users with permission to modify a file object. It also has been amended to call for transmitting the metadata to the at least one other online member of the group that has permission to receive the metadata. Similar to Aboulhosn, Balfanz discusses sharing data about files to the entire network. The concept in the pending claims that permission is required to modify an object or to receive metadata about changed objects is absent from Balfanz. Also as previously discussed, these added elements add another dimension above and beyond Baltanz that allows additional

opportunities (and security) to be exploited. As a result, pending claim 9 is allowable over Balfanz. As claim 10 is dependent on claim 9, and claim elements of claim 9 are missing in Balfanz, these same elements are missing from claim 10 and claim 10 is allowable over Balfanz.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and arguments, the applicant submits the pending application is in condition for allowance and an early action so indicating is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 30835/306546, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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